

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O P 141544Z MAR 78 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7849
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0837

EXDIS

USUN FOR AMB YOUNG

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: ZAMBIAN ATTITUDES ON ALL PARTY CONFERENCE

REF: LUSAKA 818

1. WHEN I SAW CHONA AGAIN, TODAY (TUESDAY) WITH A PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE RHODESIAN USE OF CHINOOKS
IN THEIR MARCH 6 RAID (PREVIOUS LUSAKA TEL), HE ASKED ME HOW
THE TALKS WITH NKOMO AND MUGABE WERE GOING IN LONDON. I REPLIED
THAT I HAD ONLY SEEN A REPORT OF THE FIRST CONVERSATION BUT IT
APPEARED THAT THE PF LEADERS WERE AS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE
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CONFERENCE AS THEY HAD BEEN IN WASHINGTON.

2. CHONA REPLIED FORCEFULLY, "YOU'RE TALKING TO THE WRONG
PEOPLE". HE SAID THE PEOPLE WE SHOULD BE TRYING TO CONVINCE
AT THIS STAGE WERE SMITH AND MUZOREWA/SITHOLE. PRESIDENT KAUNDA,
HE SAID, WAS AT THIS MOMENT MEETING WITH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
TO TRY TO SORT THROUGH THE PROBLEM. IT WAS CLEAR THAT IT WAS

SMITH AND THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS WHO WERE IN THE WRONG. I REPLIED THAT IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF WHO WAS RIGHT AND WHO WAS WRONG, WE ALL KNEW THE ANSWER TO THAT. THE PROBLEM WAS HOW DO YOU REACH A SETTLEMENT THAT EMBODIES PRINCIPLES ON WHICH WE CAN ALL AGREE. I ADDED THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH BOTH SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA, THE FORMER PRIOR TO SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT IN SALISBURY. IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH, WE HAD DESCRIBED, IN SOME DETAIL, WHY WE FELT THE AGREEMENT THAT SEEMED TO BE EMERGING FELL SHORT OF AN ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT AND WE MADE CLEAR THAT WE COULD NOT SUPPORT THIS KIND OF AGREEMENT.

3. CHONA SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT BUT REMAINED UNMOVED BY MY ARGUMENTS. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE TANZANIAN VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE. I SAID THAT THEY WERE TAKING A SIMILIAR POSITION TO THAT OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA BUT I THOUGHT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE WAS PROBABLY A LITTLE STRONGER. WHEN CHONA LOOKED PUZZLED, I NOTED THAT I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DESCRIBED THE CONFERENCE AS A "NON-STARTER" TO THE BBC OVER THE WEEKEND. CHONA EXPLAINED THAT THAT WAS SIMPLY IN THE CONTEXT OF EXPECTED RESPONSES FROM SMITH, BUT HE GOT THE POINT.
LOW

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.
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